

Demarest Farmhouse
Changebridge Road
Montville, Morris County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-309

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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Demarest Farmhouse
Changebridge Road
Montville, Morris County, New Jersey

Owner: Mrs. Ella Broes Van Heekeren

Date of Erection: About 1720-1730

Architect:

Builder:

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Two with a one story frame wing

Materials of Construction: Foundation - stone

Exterior walls - stone,
frame gables, frame addition
of later date

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - pitch with overhang

Historical Data:

The earliest record that we have found in Morris County pertaining to this house is in a will of Thomas Doremus made under the date of May 26, 1810 in which he says "the place I purchased from Lawrence Demarest my will is that said place must be sold to the best advantage". This we definitely know is the house in question. It passed from the Doremus heirs to George Shepherd. Shepherd was declared a lunatic and the

guardians sold the place to Helmah Mandeville. During the nineteenth century the property had many owners; besides the sheriff sales recorded, the property was retransferred several times. The present owner obtained possession in 1920.

Miss Bailey thinks that the house stands on what was originally the Davenport tract. There is no certain proof of this. Unfortunately, the deeds do not give definite boundaries, but Humphrey Davenport had a tract of seven hundred and fifty acres which he bought in 1714 on the east branch of the Rockaway River extending east to the top of the mountains, and we know that he settled on this tract and built a house south of the one in question. Miss Bailey thinks that the house of the survey was built either by a son or a son-in-law of Davenport. She has further proof for this assumption; in 1749 the old road through Pompton Plains was extended south to the Rockaway River to a bridge near John Davenports, and the house of the survey is in the proper locality to fit that description.

Bibliography:

Bailey, Rosalie F. Pre-Revolutionary Dutch Houses and Families in Northern New Jersey and Southern New York New York, William Morrow and Company, 1936

A search of Morris County records by
Frank P. Caufield, Essex County Office

Walter E. Reid
Supervising Historian

Approved:

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